

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT of TAMWORTH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

G. W. KNIGHT, M.D., D.P.H.

Report made to the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Sanitary Inspector

GARNET J. WATTS.

M.B. (Lond.), M.S. (Lond.), M.R.I.P.H.H.

1953

RURAL DISTRICT of TAMWORTH

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together with the

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GARNET J. WATTS,

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1953

TO THE TAMWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the Rural District for the year 1953.

The Vital Statistics shew a satisfactory picture, there being a rise in the birth rate following a previous gradual decline and a fall in the death rate which is well below that averaged throughout the country. The Infant Mortality Rate has, in addition, shown a welcome fall and compares favourably with the national rate.

Epidemiologically the year was without major incident and the incidence of the common infectious diseases of childhood shews no startling variance with that recorded in the country as a whole, although scarlet fever and whooping cough were slightly more prevalent. Excluding pneumonia, the only deaths from notifiable disease were four, the cause being tuberculosis in each case.

The volume of work carried out by the Public Health Department's Sanitary Inspector is approximately the same as last year, and although no additional Sanitary Inspector was appointed during the year it is gratifying to note at the time of writing this report the Council's formal approval of this request.

I have omitted any reference in this report to Health Services provided in the area, details of which may be obtained from the County Medical Officer's Annual Report.

G. W. KNIGHT,

Medical Officer of Health.

Park Road,
Coleshill.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	22,042
Population (Registrar General's estimate, Mid-1953)	...	...	...	...	16,260
Number of inhabited premises (Mar., 1953)—					
Houses	...	...	...	...	4,761
Shops	...	...	...	...	114
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	25
					<hr/> 4,900
Rateable Value (31st March, 1953)	...	...	...	...	£66,987
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£251

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS

Legitimate
Illegitimate

Totals

Males	Females	Total
153	112	265
5	7	12
158	119	277

Birth Rate, 1953 : 17.0 per 1,000 population.

	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Birth Rate	17.0	16.6	16.6	16.6	17.3	19.6	21.2

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate
Illegitimate

Totals

Males	Females	Total
4	6	10
—	—	—
4	6	10

Still Birth Rate, 1953 : 34.8 per 1,000 total births.

	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Still Birth Rate	34.8	14.8	22.5	15.0	21.6	26.5	34.5

Prematurity.

Total number of live premature births	...	8
Total number of premature still births	...	2
Total premature births	...	10
Incidence of prematurity	...	3.5%
Proportion of premature live births	...	2.8%

DEATHS.

	Males	Females	Total
All causes	62	60	122

Death Rate, 1953 : 7.5 per 1,000 population.

	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Crude Death Rate	7.5	10.0	11.9	10.4	9.2	9.9	10.2

Classified Causes of Death.

	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	4	—	4
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections ...	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
8. Measles ...	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	1	3	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	3	—	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	—	—
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	7	6	13
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	—	—	—
16. Diabetes ...	—	3	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	10	8	18
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	8	1	9
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	2	3
20. Other heart disease ...	11	9	20
21. Other circulatory disease ...	1	—	1
22. Influenza ...	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia ...	2	5	7
24. Bronchitis ...	6	2	8
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	—	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ...	2	1	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	2	13	15
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	2	—	2
34. All other accidents ...	—	3	3
35. Suicide ...	1	1	2
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
37. All causes ...	62	60	122

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	3	4	7

Infant Mortality Rate, 1953 : 25.3 per 1,000 live births.

	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Infant Death Rate	25.3	37.5	45	23	11	20	29.8

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	2	2	4

Neo-natal Mortality Rate, 1953 : 14.4 per 1,000 live births (compared with 22.4 per 1,000 live births in 1951 and 29.9 per 1,000 live births in 1952).

Classified causes of Death of Infants under one year
(including survival period).

Cause of Death	Survival Period											
	Up to 12 hrs.		12 to 24 hrs.		1—7 days		1—4 weeks		1—6 months		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
(a) (i) Interstitial pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
(ii) Congenital defects of heart	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Intracranial hæmorrhage (Birth injury)	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
(c) (i) Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Aspiration of mucous	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(d) Asphyxia due to inhalation of stomach contents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
(e) (i) Broncho-pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
(ii) Operation for pyloric stenosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(f) (i) Aspiration of vomit	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
(ii) Acute bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(g) Atelectasis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	3	4

Maternal Deaths : Nil.

Deaths due to Malignant Disease

			Males	Females	Total
All causes	11	10	21	

Cancer Death Rate : 1.3 per 1,000 population.

Comparative Birth and Death Rates

* Using comparability factors Births 0.98 Deaths 1.06	Tamworth Rural District	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Resident population 25,000—50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Administrative County
	Rates per 1,000 Home Population				
BIRTHS					
Live Births	* 16.66	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.8
Still Births	0.61	0.35	0.43	0.34	0.38
	34.8(a)	22.4(a)	24.8(a)	21.4(a)	21.0(a)
DEATHS					
All Causes	* 7.95	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5
Typhoid and paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Tuberculosis	0.24	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24
Influenza	0.00	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Acute poliomyelitis including polioencephalitis	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia	0.43	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64
	Rates per 1,000 live births				
All causes under 1 year of age	25.3(b)	26.8(b)	30.8	24.3	24.8
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	0.0	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.

General Comment.

Generally speaking, the vital statistics for the year 1953 can be considered satisfactory. There was a rise in the birth rate from 16.6 in 1952 to 17.0 per 1,000 population, and a fall in the death rate from 10.0 in 1952 to 7.5 per 1,000 population, the lowest rate recorded in the last seven years under review. Both birth and death rates compare favourably with those recorded over England and Wales as a whole. The excess of births over deaths during the year was 155, showing an arithmetical increase in the population of 16,020 in 1952 although the Registrar General's estimate of the population of the area, allowing for population movement, is given as 16,260, an increase of 240 over the previous year's estimate.

Although there was an increase in the number of still-births, the numbers involved are small and it would be dangerous to attach too much significance to these annual returns, for violent fluctuations are liable and in fact have occurred. During the year there were 10 premature births, two of which proved to be stillbirths, and the incidence of prematurity is 3.5% of all births.

The proportion of home confinements to hospital confinements during the year was approximately 2.5 : 1, and not far short of 75% of all confinements in the area were undertaken either in the home or private nursing homes. Compared with other areas there is an obviously higher proportion of home confinements than one might expect if there were sufficient available hospital beds in the district.

The total deaths of residents of Tamworth Rural District during the year is 122, some 39 less than in the previous year, the major causes of death being heart disease, cancer and vascular diseases of the nervous system, in that order. There is no evidence to suggest that there are environmental or other circumstances existing in the area which play any great part in determining the deaths from specific causes. There was little variation in the sexes, males and females both being responsible for approximately half the total deaths during the year, whilst 57 (27 males and 30 females) of the 122 deaths, representing 46% of the total deaths, occurred over the age of 70 years.

Deaths from cancer (21) are almost the same as last year (22) and the rate of 1.3 per 1,000 population is not abnormal.

There were no maternal deaths and a fall in the number of deaths of infants under one year of age, the rate of 25.3 per 1,000 live births comparing favourably with rates averaged

over the country as a whole. Of the seven infant deaths, compared with 10 in 1952, four failed to survive more than four weeks following birth, and congenital abnormalities proved to be the cause in three instances, birth injuries being responsible in the remaining case. There were no deaths attributable to prematurity, although there were eight live premature births recorded during the year.

Infectious diseases have played little or no part in determining the death rate, for the only deaths reported to be due to infectious diseases during the year were four, the cause classified as pulmonary tuberculosis in each case.

SECTION B.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Total number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1953.
(Giving age groups, deaths and admissions to hospital).

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Number of Cases notified								Total cases re- moved to hospital	Total deaths
	At all ages	At Ages—years								
		Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and upwards		
Measles	197	3	99	92	3	—	—	—	3	—
Whooping Cough	63	8	37	18	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	21	2	5	5	—	2	3	4	7	7
Scarlet Fever	37	—	14	22	—	1	—	—	18	—
Erysipelas	3	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13	—	—	1	2	4	4	2	4	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS	337	13	158	138	6	8	7	7	35	11

Comparative Rates of Notification of Infectious Disease 1953.
(provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns)

CORRECTED NOTIFICATIONS	Tamworth R.D.	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs & great towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25000-50000 at 1951 Census)	London Administrative County
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal Infection	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet Fever	2.27	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02
Whooping Cough	3.87	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30
Diphtheria	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas	0.18	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	12.11	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09
Pneumonia	1.29	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polio-encephalitis)					
Paralytic	0.00	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07
Non-paralytic	0.00	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Food Poisoning	0.00	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38
Puerperal Pyrexia	0.00	18.23(a)	24.23(a)	12.46(a)	28.61(a)

(a) per 1,000 total (live and still) births

Total Cases of Infectious Disease notified during previous years.

	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Measles	197	155	298	141	42	294	77
Whooping Cough	63	34	206	26	42	50	16
Pneumonia	21	13	19	15	9	19	12
Scarlet Fever	37	27	13	16	11	19	7
Erysipelas	3	3	1	1	1	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	—	1	—	3	} 6	} 1	—
Non-paralytic	—	1	1	—			—
Meningococcal Infection	—	1	1	1			—
Dysentery	1	1	5	—	—	1	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13	9	8	13	9	9	3
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1	4	10	4	8	2
Food Poisoning	—	8	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	337	256	557	226	124	403	118

Comment.

The year showed a rise in the total number of notifications of infectious diseases, 337 being recorded compared with 256 in the previous year. The increase was in the main due to small overall increases in notifications of measles, whooping cough, scarlet fever and pneumonia, and the notification rates, excepting measles, are consequently slightly higher than those recorded over England and Wales as a whole. There were, however, no cases of acute poliomyelitis, meningococcal infection, enteric fever, food poisoning, puerperal pyrexia or diphtheria reported during the year. There has, in fact, only been one case of puerperal pyrexia notified during the past seven years for which figures are available, although one must assume that this is primarily due to laxity in notification rather than lack of cases. The ready availability of modern drugs and the ready and rapid response to treatment make puerperal pyrexia appear to be a relatively unimportant complication of childbirth when compared with the pre-1935 era, and sepsis is no longer one of the major causes of maternal death.

Three hundred and nine (91%) of the total of 337 cases of notified infectious disease occurred in children under the age of 15 years and there was an obvious increase in the number of cases of infectious disease in the pre-schoolage group of children compared with the previous year, the schoolchild being normally responsible for bringing infection back to the home.

Thirty-five cases of notifiable disease (10% of the total) were removed to hospital for treatment, the bulk being cases of Scarlet Fever where 18 (50%) out of the 37 cases notified were removed to Isolation Hospital. There appears to have always been a tendency in this area to remove the child found to be suffering from scarlet fever to Isolation Hospital, but it is rarely necessary nowadays to do so on medical grounds for the disease is relatively mild. There is always the risk to the child of cross infection giving rise to troublesome complications, and removal to hospital should only be undertaken in the very few instances when treatment is required which cannot be given in the home and when isolation cannot be carried out satisfactorily in the home. Seven of the 21 cases of pneumonia were removed to hospital for treatment, and it is striking to note that 12 (57%) were children under the age of 15 years.

Measles.

There was an increase in notifications of measles, 197 being recorded compared with 155 in 1952, and the highest proportion of the infections occurred in the pre-school aged child (102). During recent years the typical rhythm of these

outbreaks has been lost and we appear to be getting a much more uniform annual rate. Although three of the children infected were under one year of age there were no deaths, probably due to the rapid advance made in treatment of the complications (e.g. pneumonia, eye and ear infections etc.).

Whooping Cough.

Sixty-three cases of whooping cough were recorded, 45 (71%) of whom were pre-school aged children and eight infants under the age of one year. Whooping Cough represents one of the gravest risks to infants and the mortality rate is highest in this latter age group, but fortunately all recovered and no deaths were reported in the district.

Scarlet Fever.

There were no localised outbreaks of scarlet fever, the 37 cases being scattered throughout the area. There were no deaths and the disease is now relatively mild.

Tuberculosis.

Thirteen cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and two cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified for the first time during the year. Nine of the 13 pulmonary cases and both cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were males and there were four deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, again all male. The tuberculosis death rate of 0.24 per 1,000 population is not significantly at variance with the rate recorded over England and Wales as a whole, and the notification rate of .79 per 1,000 population compares favourably with the rate of approximately 1.0 per 1,000 averaged throughout the country. There are no Chest Clinics in the District and consequently cases have to travel out of the area to Atherstone or Nuneaton for examination and treatment. I have no adequate information on the contacts examined at these centres, a point I made at some length in my last report, and no children from the District were inoculated using B.C.G. vaccine during the year.

Because of this unsatisfactory position, requests have been made by me to the Chest Physician for the setting up of a small Clinic at Tamworth Hospital and which would obviate the distances travelled by patients and contacts. Unfortunately, however, it does not appear to be an easy task because of the lack of suitable premises within the Hospital confines and in view of the fact that the total cases on the register (51 pulmonary cases, 17 non-pulmonary cases) is not great.

Diphtheria.

For the sixth year in succession no case of diphtheria has been reported in the District. Immunisations continue to be carried out at Child Welfare Clinics and Schools by Local Health Authority Medical Officers and by general medical practitioners in the home and surgery. The total number of immunisations carried out during the year is approximately the same as last year and again it is noted that only 36% of infants under the age of one year have been protected in this manner during the year and approximately 45% of children under the age of two years. Primary immunisations totalled 218 during the year, of whom 69 (31%) were delayed until after the child had reached two years of age, whereas immunisation should preferably be undertaken as soon after the sixth month of life as possible. There appears to be no strong feelings against immunisation, for the total primary immunisations at all ages carried out in the last two years represents approximately 80% of the total live births during the preceding years, but the public appear less ready and eager to make the necessary effort to ensure immunisation is carried out at the proper time. Combined vaccines as a prophylactic against both diphtheria and whooping cough are now given, but it is too early to assess its effect on the incidence of whooping cough. The following table shows the total immunisations carried out during the year.

	Age at date of injection							Total
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	
Primary	97	52	16	14	12	26	1	218
Reinforcing	—	—	—	—	14	151	33	198
Totals	97	52	16	14	26	177	34	416

Smallpox.

There were no cases of smallpox notified during the year 1953, and 56 primary vaccinations and 24 re-vaccinations were carried out during the year as shown in the following table.

	Age at date of Vaccination					Totals
	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	
Vaccinated	40	3	3	4	6	56
Re-vaccinated	—	—	—	2	22	24
Totals	40	3	3	6	28	80

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
TAMWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

The number of new houses erected was lower than in the previous year, but at the end of the year the number under construction was approximately 100, with a bigger programme planned for 1954. This figure excludes 234 houses which are being erected by the Coal Industry Housing Association. Repairs to older property continue to be a problem but more work in this line is now being carried out.

The Middleton Sewage Disposal Scheme was completed and put into operation.

I am indebted to Mr. A. Shaw, M.I.Mun.E., the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, for information and data as regards new housing, sewerage and refuse collection.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GARNET J. WATTS,

Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

Water continues to be supplied to the district by the following authorities:—

- (a) Tamworth Waterworks Joint Committee.
- (b) South Staffordshire Water Co.
- (c) Birmingham Corporation.

During the year the quality of water supplied to the public continued to be satisfactory and there was no evidence of plumbo solvency.

All the water is chlorinated and regularly sampled, either by the respective Water Authority or the Health Department of the Council.

During the year, 18 samples were taken by myself from mains and three other sources. Of these 18 samples taken, four from two wells proved unsatisfactory and instructions were given to the consumers to boil the water used for drinking purposes.

The following table gives the estimated total of inhabited premises supplied by mains water.

ESTIMATED PARTICULARS OF MAINS WATER CONNECTIONS—Domestic

	Estimated Population in 1951	Domestic Buildings No.	Domestic Buildings Served	Estimated Population Served	% Served	Average No. of persons per House	Supplying Authority
Armington.	1,384	456	435	1,320	95.37	3.035	Tamworth Joint.
Austrey	351	118	98	292	83.05	2.975	South Staffs.
Bolehall and Glascote	2,661	765	740	2,573	96.68	3.478	Tamworth Joint.
Kingsbury:							
(Dosthill		310)	272				Tamworth Joint.
(Hurley	4,535	497)	1,132	4,345	95.81	3.099	B'ham Corporation
(Kingsbury		656)					
Middleton	660	198	172	573	86.04	3.333	South Staffs.
Newton Regis	475	146	138	449	94.52	3.245	South Staffs.
Seckington	71	23	19	59	82.62	3.087	South Staffs.
Shuttington	504	152	146	484	96.07	3.316	Tamworth Joint.
Wilnecote and Castle Liberty	5,468	1,625	1,590	5,350	97.83	3.364	Tamworth Joint.
Totals	16,109	4,946	4,742	15,445	95.88	3.259	

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year the Middleton Scheme was completed and put into operation.

No other major changes occurred but it is hoped that 1954 will see the commencement of the Northern Area Scheme, the enlarging of the works at Cliff and Dosthill, and the approval of the Ministry to the completion of the Hurley Scheme. This latter Scheme will be even more essential on the completion, during 1954, of some 300 houses at Hurley, all of which must drain to the half-completed and inadequate works at Old Rail Farm.

A report on the whole of the area draining into the sewers of the Tamworth Sewage Disposal Joint Committee has been requested from the Council's Consulting Engineer and is expected early in 1954.

During the year, in seven cases there was a change over to water carriage system, and in five others cesspools were dispensed with on the completion of the Middleton Scheme.

One owner of three cottages, where no public sewer was available, had a septic tank installed to take the drainage from his property.

Verminous Premises and Persons.

The year was very quiet under this section, only one fairly small bug infestation being found and dealt with; one house being cleansed of filth which had accumulated due to the physical incapacity of the occupant, and arrangements made at the request of the police for the cleansing of a vagrant.

Infectious Diseases.

During the year the incidence of infectious disease was low, with the result that 50 visits only were necessitated, these being confined to enquiries, etc., in cases of Scarlet Fever and the fumigation of bedding, etc., after the death or removal of T.B. patients.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The system of collecting refuse by direct labour under the control of the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, continues to give a regular collection of household refuse in the district. Although a regular weekly collection has not yet proved possible owing to the labour problem, it is anticipated that 1954 will see a speeding up of collections. The concentration

of tipping at two sites only and the regular use of the Chaseside shovel has shown a distinct improvement in the control of the tips and no serious infestations from crickets, flies, etc., were experienced during the year.

The replacement of the Cliff tip serving the southern end of the district seems still a problem and one to which, at present, no solution has been found.

Rodent Control—Report for the period 1/1/53 to 31/3/54.

The Rodent Operative continues to give extremely satisfactory service—a service which is appreciated by the public, who often praise his ability. The result is that few major infestations are found despite the large area he has to cover by cycle, which on occasions mean that the time interval between visits to some of the remote parts is greater than I would like.

The return to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for this period covers fifteen months, so that in future the return coincides with the claim for financial assistance which is rendered at the end of each financial year.

Results of sewer treatments, extracts from the return and other interesting data is as follows:—

(a) Particulars of return.

No. of properties in district:

Local Authority	...	...	18
Houses	...	...	4,643
Agricultural	...	...	169
Business	...	...	321
			<hr/> 5,151

No. or properties inspected:

Local Authority	...	...	13
Houses	...	...	661
Agricultural	...	...	29
Business	...	...	17
			<hr/> 720

No. of properties found infested and treated

(a) major infestations; (b) minor:

Local Authority	(a)	...	...	1
	(b)	...	...	12
Houses	(a)	...	...	—
	(b)	...	...	405
Agricultural	(a)	...	...	—
	(b)	...	...	20
Business	(a)	...	...	—
	(b)	...	...	17
				<hr/> 455

(b) Bodies found on—

Tips	...	...	...	203
Farms	...	...	...	140
Business Properties	...	...	...	188
Surface Treatments	...	...	...	910
Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	173
				— 1,614

If the total number of bodies found is averaged out for 12 months it shows that there continues to be a reduction as the number represents a decrease of approximately 9% on 1952, 25% on 1951 and 26% on 1950.

(c) The sewer treatment carried out in June and December showed—

		June	Dec.	Total
No. of manholes baited	.. .. .	253	246	499
" " " showing no takes of bait	..	123	115	238
" " " " partial takes of bait	..	94	94	188
" " " " complete takes of bait		26	37	63

No notices were served during the period and the co-operation of the public with your operative continues to be of the high order necessary to ensure the smooth and efficient working of this public service.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Prosecu- tions
(i) Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	7	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	43	32	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (excluding out workers premises)	6	5	—	—
Totals	63	44	—	—

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		Prosecutions
			To HM Inspector	By HM Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	4	—	6	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	4	—	6	—

Canal Boats.

Visits have been made to the various docks and wharves for the purpose of examining canal boats.

Traffic has again been light and, therefore, few inspections made. The majority of inspections were made of boats tied up awaiting orders.

During the year one new registration was made. There were no cancellations. This shows 146 boats on the register at the end of the year.

Thirteen boats were inspected. At the time of inspection they were registered for occupation by 36 persons and were occupied by seven males, nine females and four children.

The ages of the children were:—

			Male	Female
Age 4 years	...	...	1	1
„ 8 „	...	...	1	—
„ 11 „	...	...	1	—
Total	...		3	1

No complaint notes were issued and no boat was found to be carrying offensive cargo. As no infectious disease was met with, no boat was detained for disinfection.

Atmospheric Pollution.

As a result of the Council's decision to discontinue the use of the atmospheric pollution gauges at the end of the financial year, no overall picture of the conditions in the district can be given. Work in this field has continued, being mainly concentrated on pollution due to burning colliery spoilbanks and the pollution from the Kingsbury Colliery stack.

The colliery officials have continued to co-operate in endeavouring to keep to the minimum the nuisance caused by the spoilbanks, and the N.C.B. have agreed to the installation of grit arrestors to overcome the nuisance from the boilers. This work, it is anticipated, will be commenced in 1954.

HOUSING.

During the year 36 houses were completed by the Council and 19 by private enterprise. At the end of the year 56 were under construction for the Council, 41 for private persons and 234 for the Coal Industry Housing Association.

During the year 16 cases were reported to the Council as needing sympathetic consideration in re-housing due to overcrowding and health reasons. Of these, and cases previously reported, 10 were re-housed. All cases reported were referred by the Health Committee to the appropriate committee for consideration when accommodation was available.

The number of applicants on the Council's list at the end of the year was 524, 415 from persons residing within the area and 109 from persons residing outside the area. As many of these are miners, some of them will be accommodated by the Coal Industry Housing Association on their site at Hurley.

As a result of informal action, three dwellings were demolished during the year.

Four statutory notices were served requiring repairs to properties and were complied with.

The publication of the Government's White Paper—"Houses—The Next Step"—indicated that Local Authorities will be called on to step up action in respect of older properties and if the provisions now included in the Housing Repairs and Rents Bill become law the work in connection with housing will be greatly increased, for although the number of houses that will have to be demolished as unfit is not high, there is a large proportion of the properties in need of major repairs.

The public are making more use of the Improvement Grants offered in the Housing Act, 1949, and from the number of tentative enquiries received it looks as though applications will increase.

It is hoped, in 1954, to re-classify the worst of the houses in the district, as, since the survey of 1946, many of the houses then scheduled for demolition have been substantially improved, while others which were not then in that category have since deteriorated so as to make them unfit.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

During the year the condition of the seven dairies registered in the district was satisfactory. The trend is towards bottled milk, the milk being designated and received ready bottled so that gradually the dairymen are becoming retailers of designated bottled milk.

Enquiries were made at four farms following reports of T.B. positive samples taken by various sampling officers, either at the farm, on the round or at the dairies to which the milk is sent. In all these cases the milk was sent to dairies where it is subject to heat treatment. This figure shows a big decrease on 1952, when 14 farms were concerned, a very pleasing feature.

According to notifications received from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, two new T.T. licences were granted during the year.

Milk Licences.

The number of licences in force at the end of the year were:—

Dealers (Sterilised Milk)	...	...	3
„ (Pasteurised Milk)	...	...	5
„ (Tuberculin Tested)	...	...	3
			<hr/>
Total	...	...	11
			<hr/>

The two new dairies built in 1952 continued to hold their licences for pasteurising and sterilising milk, issued by the Food and Drugs Authority (County Council).

Meat Inspection.

The slaughter and inspection of animals killed for food (other than bacon pigs killed by householders for their own use) continued to be carried out at the Government Slaughter House which is situated in the Borough of Tamworth.

Other Foods.

One 7lb. tin Brisket of Beef (Australian) was found to be unfit on inspection. The method of disposal was by incineration on the premises.

Licences.

The number of premises licensed under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is:—

37 premises for storage and sale of ice cream.

5 „ „ manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream.

8 „ „ preparation and manufacture of sausages or potted meat, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale, including the preparation of meat or fish by any process of cooking.

Ice Cream.

Results of samples:—

	Grade:	1	2	3	4	Total
Manufactured in district ...		8	—	1	—	9
Manufactured outside district		3	2	—	—	5
Total ...		11	2	1	—	14

It is pleasing to note that the ice cream manufactured in the district has maintained a high standard, eight of the nine samples taken being placed in grade 1, and reflects credit on the conscientious way these manufacturers are carrying on their business. The vehicles were inspected and found satisfactory.

Premises.

The majority of the shops in the district are the small type general stores and are usually run by the family. The sixty premises retailing foodstuffs in the district maintained a good standard of cleanliness and improvements to the premises were carried out to four of them. One trader also has a mobile shop which tours outlying areas and all food is pre-packed. The vehicle is well laid out and well maintained.

There are seven butchers' shops in the area, all of which have ample room for cold storage in the form of refrigerators and were well maintained.

It is regretted that owing to many commitments the shortage of staff does not permit as regular inspection of shops as one would wish, but fortunately the type of persons in these do try to preserve a good standard of cleanliness and hygiene.

The number of visits made in connection with food, milk, ice cream and the premises during the year was 140.

Food Guilds.

There are no Food Guilds in operation in the district, the rural nature of which makes an organisation of this kind difficult to plan.

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	27
Drainage and Sewerage	...	...	...	...	142
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	6
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	11
Canal Boats	...	...	...	...	15
Factories (including Bakehouses)	...	...	...	...	44
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	3
Refuse	...	...	...	...	35
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	65
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	35
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	21
Knackers' Yards	...	...	...	...	4
Housing—General	...	...	228		
Overcrowding	...	...	25		
Dirty Houses	...	...	14		
Miscellaneous	...	115	...	...	382
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	50
Food—Shops, etc.	...	...	75		
Ice cream	...	...	35	...	110
Milk	...	...	...	...	23
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	62

